

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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TAGS: EAIR US MX

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - AIR COMMUNICATIONS CHARGES

REF STATE 92834

1. EMBOFF SPOKE WITH JOSE RODRIGUEZ TORRES, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF CIVIL AVIATION, AND WITH ENRIQUE MENDEZ, DIRECTOR OF RAMSA (RADIO AERONAUTICA MEXICANA, SA). BOTH GAVE ESSENTIALLY SAME RESPONSES TO THE QUESTIONS CONTAINED IN REFTEL.

2. RAMSA IS A CORPORATION THAT WAS FORMED BY U.S. AND MEXICAN CARRIERS A NUMBER OF YEARS AGO. WHEN MUCH MORE SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT BECAME NECESSARY IN RECENT YEARS AND RAMSA WAS WITHOUT SUFFICIENT FUNDS, THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT STEPPED IN AND PROVIDED THE FUNDS AND BECAME THE MAJOR STOCKHOLDER. HOWEVER, ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RAMSA ARE THE REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL OR MOST OF THE U.S. CARRIERS SERVING MEXICO.

3. SOME TIME AGO RAMSA REQUESTED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TARIFFS OF THE SECRETARIAT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION AN INCREASE IN RATES, SINCE IT CLAIMED THAT REVENUES DID NOT MEET EXPENSES. AN INCREASE OF 60 PERCENT WAS GRANTED ON A PROVISIONAL BASIS, WHICH WOULD BE DEPENDENT

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UPON THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF A STUDY COMMISSION.

THE STUDY COMMISSION HAS BEEN FORMED UNDER THE AEGIS OF THE CAMERA INTERNACIONAL DE AEROPUERTOS, THE PRESIDENT OF WHICH IS FLAVIO MANSI, LOCAL DIRECTOR OF BRANIFF INTERNATIONAL. A LEADING MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION IS FRANCISCO CONTRERAS, LOCAL MANAGER OF EASTERN AIRLINES.

4. IT IS NOT CERTAIN WHEN THE STUDY COMMISSION WILL REPORT ITS RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE TARIFF DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORTATION, BUT PROBABLY WITHIN THE NEXT TWO WEEKS. HOWEVER, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT THE COMMISSION MEMBERS ARE WELL-AWARE OF THE INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORTATION FAIR COMPETITIVE PRACTICES ACT OF 1974 AND OF THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF AN EXCESSIVE INCREASE IN CHARGES.

5. BOTH RODRIGUEZ TORRES AND MENDEZ SAID THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE CREATION OF THE STUDY COMMISSION AND PROBABLY DID NOT EVEN KNOW OF ITS EXISTENCE, AND THAT IT WAS A PURELY INTERNAL MATTER.
THOMPSON

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